

VZCZCXRO0801  
PP RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH RUEHTRO  
DE RUEHGO #0240 1180656  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 280656Z APR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8899  
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE  
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1922  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5400  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8993  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6569  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4396  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2385  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000240

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP AND IO; PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/28/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: ZARGANAR REPORTEDLY ILL

REF: 08 RANGOON 907

Classified By: Political Officer Sean ONeill for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d)

[11](#). (C) Family members told us imprisoned comedian/activist Zarganar has been suffering from acute symptoms of jaundice and hypertension for well over a week. He was taken from Myitkyina prison to see a specialist for tests on April 27. His sister, who is with him, expects to receive the test results within the week and anticipates her brother will begin treatment shortly. On April 16, Zarganar lost consciousness for approximately three hours, but prison officials did not permit him to see a doctor until two days later, according to family members.

[12](#). (U) Police arrested Zarganar at his home the evening of June 4, 2008. In November 2008, a court sentenced him to a total of 45 years' imprisonment (reftel). Prior to his arrest, Zarganar had been engaged in Cyclone Nargis relief efforts and had given a number of interviews to international media in which he criticized the regime's response to the disaster.  
DINGER